

Stormwater Management: The purpose of these provisions is to provide for the comprehensive management of surface and storm waters and erosion control, targeted at preserving and utilizing the many values served by King County's natural drainage system, including open space, fish and wildlife habitat, recreation, education and urban separation.

In addition to these key Development Standards, there are many other programs (e.g. regulation of public water and sewer systems, regulation of sewage systems, road operations and maintenance) that provide protection for the environment and wildlife.

While the County does not regulate development activities within incorporated areas, many King County cities have adopted the County's development standards, or ones that are substantially similar.

State Programs/Legislation Implemented by King County

Three key state programs implemented by King County are valuable tools for ensuring protection of the natural environment, including water quality and quantity. These are the Growth Management Act, the Shoreline Management Act and the State Environmental Policy Act.

Growth Management Act: The GMA was enacted in 1990 to coordinate and plan for growth, while also providing for the conservation and wise use of land, the protection of the environment, healthy economic development, and the preservation of the health, safety and high quality of life of the state's citizens. Specific statutory goals of the GMA include reduction of development sprawl, preservation of open space to conserve fish habitat, and protection of the natural environment, including water quality and quantity. To achieve these goals, the GMA offers many important tools that require coordinated land use planning throughout the Puget Sound region. The County will continue to fully utilize those tools.

Shoreline Management Act: This law seeks to protect and manage the shorelines of the state, and covers all shorelines of the state and their associated shorelands. The County's Shoreline Master Program contains the local development regulations to enforce this law in King County.

State Environmental Policy Act: This law obligates the County to integrate environmental considerations into its planning and decision-making processes. The law also grants the County substantive authority to condition or deny proposals based on identified environmental impacts. The County proposes to expand use of SEPA to protect salmon habitat. *(See the summary of Chapter 5 for details related to SEPA as an early action)*

Federal Programs/Legislation Affecting King County

The County is obligated to comply with federal environmental laws, many of which have aspects affecting salmonids and their habitat. For example, pollution control and hazardous waste clean-up statutes affect the quality of regional waters. In addition to the Endangered Species Act, the federal Clean Water Act is the most important federal statute obligating and authorizing County actions relevant to salmonids and their habitat.

Clean Water Act: The purpose of this law is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the nation's water. The Act includes three programs directly related to the County's role in conserving salmonids and their habitat: Establishment of effluent standards for discharge of pollutants, establishment of state water quality standards, and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit program to control pollutant discharges. The County has accepted its obligation to implement Clean Water Act and state water pollution control statutes.

Chapter 5: Conservation – Past, Continuing and Early Actions

King County and its cities have long been in the forefront of planning to proactively manage growth so that economic development is encouraged, sensitive environmental features are protected, and a sense of community is retained and fostered. The County's past efforts provide a strong base of conservation accomplishments upon which to build.



Conservation Policy

Starting with VISION 2020 – a regional planning process initiated in 1987 by the Puget Sound Regional Council – to development of Countywide Planning Policies and the King County Comprehensive Plan in order to implement the GMA, King County has established a clear vision of how it wants to manage its growth. That strategy encourages most future growth to be concentrated into urban areas to protect rural and resource lands. The urban areas are further designated into urban centers to capitalize on the use of existing infrastructure, create opportunities to make our transportation system more efficient, and better leverage investment dollars. The King County Comprehensive Plan provides policy guidance for managing

growth in unincorporated King County. Protecting and restoring air quality, water resources, soils, and habitats are among the County's primary goals.

Past and Continuing Salmon Conservation Programs

Over the years, King County has undertaken major efforts to protect salmon resources. These include watershed basin planning, water quality programs, monitoring, scientific research, studies on the potential use of water reuse, and open space and resource land purchases. Local governments in King County have developed plans to protect rivers and control stormwater in five major watersheds. We have implemented new regulations to improve protection of waterways, and have offered incentives to landowners so they will voluntarily protect critical habitat on their lands. We are undertaking a large-scale public involvement and information effort to ensure that our citizens understand the importance of restoring the salmon runs and safeguarding our water supplies.

The following are some highlights of those efforts:

Watershed Basin Planning: The county's Basin Planning Program began in 1987 to evaluate current and future conditions in drainage basins within the unincorporated lands in the urbanizing western third of King County and to evaluate and propose management plans for the surface waters in the basins. They are scientifically based, inter-disciplinary plans for the comprehensive management of surface water resources in the basins.

Seven basin plans were completed before the program ended in 1995 after it was concluded that development of comprehensive basin plans by King County was no longer appropriate, given the multi-jurisdictional nature of the majority of drainage basins in the county. It was recognized that a multi-governmental approach was needed to address issues across whole watersheds, and not just within single basins, in order to manage water quality, fish habitat and flooding. These recommendations led to the development of the inter-jurisdictional Watershed Forums and the development of the Regional Needs Assessment projects, programs and funding initiatives described in Chapters 7 and 8.

Habitat Restoration and Open Space Acquisitions: Under the Endangered Species Act, the highest priority of action is to conserve core areas of remaining, viable salmonid habitat and the watersheds critical to such habitat. Core salmon habitat and watershed lands can be permanently preserved through direct acquisition or purchase of conservation easements to provide the highest level of protection.

King County's resource land acquisition program efforts over nearly 30 years rival that of any metropolitan region in America. The programs have preserved some of the critical "core" elements of our regional natural lands systems. Since the early 1970s, King County and its cities have enacted several major land acquisition programs that permanently preserved open spaces, farmlands and riparian habitat. While each of these programs has had a different focus, most of these lands preserved riparian habitat or beneficial watershed lands.

King County and its cities have spent nearly \$274 million to permanently preserve more than 29,000 acres of natural lands and critical habitat under the 1989 Open Space Bond, 1993 Conservation Futures Bond, and Waterways 2000. The other major public landowners in King County are the State of Washington, with more than 85,000 acres of state Parks and Forests, and the United States Forest Service with 337,000 acres, and municipal watersheds controlling more than 94,000 acres of land. (See Table 1)

Early Actions to Achieve Salmon Conservation

Since March 9, 1998, when it was first proposed that the chinook salmon be listed as "threatened," King County has initiated a number of early actions that clearly provide benefits to chinook salmon and their habitat. Some of these actions have been reviewed and funded by the Metropolitan King County Council; some have been funded through current budgets, and are firm commitments; others may require legislative action and funding before they are implemented. In addition, King County departments submitted recom-

Table 1

Natural Lands Acquisition in King County-Since 1970 (3/1/99)			
Programs	Amount	Acres Acquired	Funds Expended
COUNTYWIDE	Total	<u>29,263</u>	<u>273,999,102</u>
	Riparian	9,414	123,002,445
	Watershed	19,849	150,996,657
KING COUNTY	Total	<u>26,542</u>	<u>162,769,776</u>
	Riparian	7,660	71,665,774
	Watershed	18,882	91,104,002
CITIES	Total	<u>2,721</u>	<u>111,229,326</u>
	Riparian	1,753	51,336,671
	Watershed	967	59,892,655
ACQUISITIONS BY WATERSHED			
Cedar/Lk. Washington	Total	<u>7,166</u>	<u>138,108,603</u>
	Riparian	4,548	60,849,016
	Watershed	2,618	77,259,587
Green River	Total	<u>7,623</u>	<u>54,156,737</u>
	Riparian	2,117	20,768,136
	Watershed	5,506	33,388,601
Puget Sound	Total	<u>1,793</u>	<u>37,703,838</u>
	Riparian	913	27,055,848
	Watershed	880	10,647,990
Snoqualmie	Total	<u>10,779</u>	<u>36,797,895</u>
	Riparian	1,836	14,329,445
	Watershed	8,943	22,468,450
White	Total	<u>1,902</u>	<u>7,232,029</u>
	Riparian		
	Watershed	1,902	7,232,029

Notes:

1. Cities or other agencies did not review this list; This is preliminary information that can be updated.
2. The City totals included here reflect acquisitions from regional programs.
3. These figures represent information currently available to the King County RLOS Section.
4. This list likely represents much of the significant county and city open space acquisition activity in King County since 1970 to demonstrate the region's acquisition activity. There are, however, other acquisitions that are not reflected here.

mended actions, and many more were the resulted from the Biological Review Panel through their systematic evaluation of County activities.

There are eight major early action initiatives that King County will undertake in 1999 and 2000 that are the cornerstones of our short-term response to the ESA listing:

- Monitoring
- Research
- Protecting and Restoring Habitat
- Improving Salmon Recovery through the County Comprehensive Plan

- Increasing Enforcement of Regulations
- Improving Protections for Sensitive Areas
- Increasing Review of New Development Proposals Through SEPA
- Improving Roads Maintenance Practices

Highlights of some of these initiatives include:

Habitat: King County and its cities will make a major commitment in its ESA response to protect and restore salmon habitat. This initiative will borrow on existing programs, such as Waterways 2000, which have already protected thousands of acres of essential habitat in the County. Looking ahead, there are three key elements to the County's habitat initiative: a watershed-based process to identify and prioritize habitat needs, a funding strategy to provide the needed funds, and processes to implement the projects.

Enforcement of Regulations: The framework of regulations and programs that King County has initiated to protect salmon is strong, but enforcement of regulations can be improved. In the 1999 budget, King County made a substantial, new commitment by authorizing eight additional code enforcement officers to enforce land use and development related regulations. This commitment is itemized in the Early Actions Matrix contained in Chapter 5 that details new staffing for enforcement activities, additional training for enforcement staff, and additional monitoring to determine compliance with permitting conditions.

The Early Actions Matrix summarizes actions proposed to address three major areas of King County responsibility: regulation of new development, provision of county services such as roads and wastewater treatment, and habitat improvements.

Improving Protections for Sensitive Areas: The Sensitive Areas Ordinance applies stringent standards across the entire unincorporated area, and is a fundamental element of stream protection in King County. In order to improve protections for salmon-bearing streams, King County is proposing to update the ordinance, increase enforcement of the regulations, and initiate an enhanced monitoring program to evaluate compliance and performance. Enforcement and monitoring are addressed in detail in the "Early Actions Matrix" in this chapter.

Increasing Review of New Development Proposals through SEPA: King County intends to undertake a comprehensive review of regulations relating to salmon and habitat through the watershed conservation planning processes. In addition, changes to regulations are likely to occur periodically as more intensive code review processes are undertaken and as conservation plans are completed.

In the interim, King County will evaluate its use of State Environmental Protection Act (SEPA) authority to impose additional conditions and mitigation on development proposals to further protect salmon habitat. This use of SEPA substantive authority is consistent with existing County policies, does not re-